

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHGT #1478 3371050
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 021050Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6537
INFO RHEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0257

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 001478

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM UN KHLS PREF PREL GT

SUBJECT: UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR COMPARES DHS TO GESTAPO

¶1. In a November 7 speech in Guatemala City, Jorge Bustamante, UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Immigrants (and a Mexican national), compared the actions of U.S. officials to deport illegal aliens from the United States with the Gestapo's repressive actions against Jews in Nazi Germany. In his remarks, delivered at the Fifth International Congress on Immigration and Development held at the Rafael Landivar University, Bustamante stated that Hollywood's depiction of the Nazi secret police "assaulting (Jews) in their homes" is what is currently happening in DHS raids in the United States against illegal immigrants. Bustamante further described the "police actions" of U.S. immigration authorities to "invade" neighborhoods with a Latin American population as an offense to immigrants.

¶2. In its coverage of Bustamante's speech, the local daily "Prensa Libre" included a political cartoon with Bustamante pointing to a flip chart depicting President Bush as Hitler. Local press reporting on the speech was otherwise minimal, although immigration issues, especially deportations, continue to be a primary topic of interest in Guatemala.
Lindwall